

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 285
By Rowland

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Blair and Parker families for their outstanding excellence and great accomplishment in producing six high school Valedictorians in six years.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence have distinguished themselves in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, it has been said by the Greek philosopher Diogenes Laertius that, "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth." Riley Blair and Sue Lambert Blair ascribed to this belief and helped to provide a firm foundation for their family as a hard-working couple who wanted the best for their six children, stressing education as a way to better one's self and one's community; and

WHEREAS, with the love of learning decisively instilled within them, Wayne and Carrie Blair, Jimmy and Tere Blair, and Charles and Pat Blair Parker drew from their parents' fine example and encouraged and supported their own children in academics and extracurricular activities; their support ultimately created an unmatched and outstanding family record of producing six Valedictorians within six years; and

WHEREAS, the Blair and Parker families refuse to settle for mediocrity and have far surpassed any family's expectations with the emergence of six students who have reached the pinnacle of high school academics; and

WHEREAS, Lauren Parker, Amy Parker, Melanie Blair, Jason Parker, Meredith Blair, and Zack Blair are six exceptional students who, between 1999-2005, were named Valedictorian of their respective classes at Smyrna High School and La Vergne High School; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, each of these cousins has achieved outstanding academic success, and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, finishing a remarkable high school career, Lauren Parker graduated as Valedictorian of Smyrna High School's class of 1999 and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in structural biology at the prestigious Cambridge University in England; and

WHEREAS, at Smyrna High School, Amy Parker graduated at the top of her class in 2001, and her success and diligence have led her to pursue a marketing degree at David Lipscomb University; and

WHEREAS, Melanie Blair graduated from La Vergne High School in 2001 having earned the title of Valedictorian and is now pursuing a journalism degree at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Valedictorian of Smyrna High School in 2002, Jason Parker is using his superb abilities to pursue a Spanish and Latin American studies degree at Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, one of the latest additions to this talented bunch is Meredith Blair, who has earned the 2005 Valedictorian title at La Vergne High School and plans to attend Middle Tennessee State University this fall; and

WHEREAS, at Smyrna High School, Zack Blair will also graduate as 2005 Valedictorian and plans to attend David Lipscomb University or the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, the Blair and Parker cousins' display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for their future success; and

WHEREAS, Lauren, Amy, and Jason Parker's noteworthy achievements are a tremendous source of pride for their parents, Charles and Pat Parker; and

WHEREAS, Melanie and Meredith Blair's dedication to excellence continues to be a great source of pride for their parents, Jimmy and Tere Blair; and

WHEREAS, Zack Blair's great achievements and success are an incredible source of pride and joy for his parents, Wayne and Carrie Blair; these brilliant cousins have garnered great acclaim and credit for their respective schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, two constants that have helped to shape these amazing individuals are a strong family connection and a strong and unwavering Christian faith; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her grandchildren's successes, Sue Lambert Blair states that she is so proud of her "darling brood" that she is often brought to tears; and

WHEREAS, these six remarkable students are the epitome of excellence in academics and are clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor Lauren Parker, Amy Parker, Melanie Blair, Jason Parker, Meredith Blair, and Zach Blair on their impressive academic achievements in earning six Valedictorian titles in six years for the Blair and Parker families, and extend to them our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.